

# NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT.  
 PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

- BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—LADY OF LYONS—As Like as Two Pines.
- BOULEVARD THEATRE, Broadway—SEVEN TENTATIONS—MORRIS FOLEY.
- BURTON'S THEATRE, Chambers street—JOHN JONES—TAKES THAT GIRL AWAY—SPECTER BRIDGEMAN.
- WALLACE'S THEATRE, Broadway—CAPTAIN OF THE WATCH—HERR AT LAW.
- METROPOLITAN THEATRE, Broadway—DELICATE GROUND—MORRIS JACQUES—LA MAJA—SPECTER BRIDGEMAN.
- AMERICAN MUSEUM—Afternoon and Evening—RUCIACER.
- WOOD'S MINSTRELS—Mechanics' Hall—473 Broadway.
- BUCKLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, 230 Broadway—BUCKLEY'S SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA.
- CHINESE ASSEMBLY ROOMS, 430 Broadway—PANDORA OF EUROPE AND KING OF BRISTOL.
- FREEMAN'S BULLDOG OPERA HOUSE, 663 Broadway—SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA.

New York, Saturday, May 19, 1855.

## The News.

By the arrival of the Baltic at this port yesterday we have seven days later intelligence from Europe. The brings, amongst other important intelligence, the account of an attempt made to assassinate the Emperor, by an Italian named Placido, one of the members of Garibaldi's late revolutionary troop at Rome. It appears that he followed Louis Napoleon to London for the purpose of putting his cowardly design into execution, but, after dodging him about for several days, he was deterred from attempting it by the difficulties interposed by the crowded state of the streets. Returning to Paris, he watched his opportunity, and as the Emperor was riding through the Champs Elysees, fired a loaded pistol twice at him, within a few yards distance. Owing to the promptness of one of the secret police, named Alessandro, he was luckily disturbed in his aim, and was immediately seized and conveyed to prison. The Emperor calmly pursued his ride amidst the acclamations of the crowds who followed him, without appearing to be at all moved by the circumstance. In the evening he appeared at the Opera Comique, with the Empress, and was received with the most enthusiastic demonstrations. His address, in reply to the congratulations of the Senate upon his escape, displays the characteristic tact with which he turns every personal incident to account in the furtherance of his policy.

It appears that peace negotiations are still being carried on at Vienna, notwithstanding the adjournment of the Congress. Fresh propositions had been made by Russia, after the departure of Lord John Russell, but they were deemed inadmissible by the representatives of the allies. Austria and Prussia are separately endeavoring to set fresh negotiations on foot.

The bombardment of Sebastopol is suspended, or, in other words, abandoned as a bad job. More desperate fighting, attended with severe losses on both sides, had exhausted the strength of the besiegers; and although they had gained considerable advantages, so far as the capture of the advanced works of the Russians were concerned, it was judged necessary to give up all idea at present of a general assault. A belief was entertained that a combined attack was contemplated by the Russians on the whole of the allied lines.

The mission of the English and French envoys to Persia had failed. Russian influence was all powerful at that court.

From Spain we learn that the *quinto*, or conscription, was actively proceeding with, in order to enable the government to send out as many troops as possible to Cuba. The Madrid journals continue to lavish abuse on Mr. Bonifaz. From the Madrid correspondence of the *Paris Presse*, it would seem that the Spanish government had sent out instructions to the Cuban authorities to limit their vigilance to "strict necessities." Whether this is meant for a reprimand for their notorious disposition to overstep their powers, we cannot, of course, take upon ourselves to say.

In commercial affairs there was great activity, and an advance in prices of staple productions is noticed.

As the passengers by the Baltic were landing, a suspicious looking character was arrested by the police, and upon searching him it was discovered that he had purloined a dressing case containing about three thousand dollars worth of diamonds, the property of a passenger in the ship.

Before the Baltic was telegraphed in the office, about 1,000 bales of cotton were sold at steady prices. Afterwards, no transactions of moment occurred. Common grades of State lard were from 12½ to 25 cents per barrel lower. Western and Canadian were also dull, and prices favored purchasers. Southern, being in light supply, was unchanged. A small lot of Southern red wheat sold at \$2.50. Indian corn was firmer, and sold at 11½ for white and yellow. Pork was less active, but steady; other provisions generally firm. About 1,200 to 1,500 bales of cotton were taken for Liverpool, at 53½d. to 54½d. for compressed and uncompressed; and 5,000 bales corn at 3½d. and 1,500 bbls rye, for Hanover, at 1s 9d.

Our files from Bermuda are to the 9th of May. Governor Murray had issued his proclamation summoning the Colonial Parliament to meet on the 22d instant. The *Royal Gazette* of May 1st says:—A deserter from H. M. ship *Boscawen* was discovered on board the American steamer *Osage* just prior to that vessel leaving St. George for Philadelphia yesterday week, for which we understood it is the intention of the Naval Commander-in-Chief to prosecute the captain of the *Osage* on his return to Bermuda. A tornado passed, with great violence, over the islands on Saturday, May 5th, doing much damage. Several schooners in the harbor at Hamilton were injured, some houses damaged, and large cedar trees torn up from their roots.

Our correspondent at Rio Janeiro, writing on March 31, rejoices at the absence of all United States war ships from the harbor, as he says the officers when on that station employ themselves in carefully posting all copies of the *Herald* arriving in merchant ships, and appropriating them to their own use. The coffee market was without change. Freight continued low.

If the free sailors fall in creating a bloody fatality in New Orleans, it will not be their fault. Of all the huge boat stories told of the "Missouri ruffians," that related by Geo. S. Park, editor of the *Louisville*, is the climax. The plot of it is given under our telegraphic head, and we would commend it especially to the earnest attention of all abolitionists who contemplate emigrating under the patronage of the Kansas league.

In the Circuit Court yesterday, Judge Nelson decided to sustain, until the final hearing, the injunction granted against the book containing the experience of Miss Buckley, the escaped nun. We give her Judge's opinion in another column.

According to instructions issued by the Post Office Department, it appears that valuable letters from Germany by the Bremen line from New York and the Prussian closed mails from Boston, will be registered in the same manner and on the same terms as those deliverable in the United States, but the postage on all such letters must be pre-paid to their place of destination.

The Common Council met last evening. In the Board of Aldermen additional resolutions were presented against the conveyance of Carle Garden into an emigrant depot, and a resolution was adopted directing the Commissioners to report upon the facts connected with the transfer of the lease of the Grand Central to the Commissioners of Emigration, and also

generally as to the rights of the Corporation in connection with the Battery grounds. In the Board of Common Council, a resolution of a similar character was adopted. Two veto messages were received from the Mayor—one against grading Fifty-second street, from Tenth to Eleventh avenue, and the other in regard to the lease of the Staten Island ferry. Both of these documents are interesting, as showing the very loose manner in which important measures affecting the interests of the city and of property holders are disposed of.

**The News from Europe—Further Negotiations at Vienna—The Bombardment of Sebastopol Suspended—Attempt on the Life of the French Emperor.**

The news received by the Baltic, although important, are, as regards the peace question, as vague and inconclusive as ever. Our previous accounts seemed to have finally dropped the curtain on the diplomatic farce, which has for months past been enacted in Vienna, and we had expected to hear of no more attempts at negotiation, until the success of the military operations on either side had swept away some of the existing difficulties. The resources of the Vienna statesmen appear, however, to be inexhaustible, for as fast as one failure succeeds another Count Buol has some fresh project in reserve, which keeps the ball of diplomacy moving. From statements made by Lords Clarendon and Palmerston in both Houses of Parliament on the 4th, it appears that after Lord John Russell had left Vienna, M. Drouyn de L'Huys and the Earl of Westmoreland were invited by the Austrian Minister to attend another conference in order to receive fresh propositions on the part of Russia. A meeting accordingly took place, but whatever may have been the nature of the terms offered, for as yet they have not been laid before the public, the plenipotentiaries of the Allies unanimously refused to accept them, as not being likely to promote the objects which they had in view. Notwithstanding this fresh check, it would appear, from Lord Clarendon's statement, that Austria is still determined to leave no effort untaken to bring about an accommodation, and the earnestness which she evinces in the present apparently hopeless state of the negotiations, has naturally created great anxiety and suspicion on the English mind as to her ultimate intentions in the event of their failure. The explanations of the English Ministers, when questioned on this point, were generally considered unsatisfactory, and were of a nature to show that they themselves entertained considerable doubt upon the subject.

This state of things is, we believe, in a great degree influenced by the ill success which attends the military operations in the Crimea. So long as Sebastopol holds out Austria will be in no hurry to commit herself on either side, and she will endeavor to keep up the game of a mediator as long as she is allowed. There is a report of her having signed a military convention with France which binds her to certain important movements with her armies, but we must wait for the confirmation of the statement before we place faith in it. Prussia, it is said, is again endeavoring to re-enter the circle of diplomatic influences from which she was excluded during the late conferences. In all this we see only a renewal of the struggle for supremacy with her rival in the Diet.

The suspension of the bombardment of Sebastopol, which took place, as some accounts state, to give time for the arrival of additional reinforcements and material, and as others assert, from sheer exhaustion and a conviction of the uselessness of attempting an assault, seems to confirm the opinions that we have always expressed as to the little chances that the Allies had of taking the place without first annihilating the Russians outside in a general battle. It has been a capital error from the commencement to suppose that, with such insufficient strength as they have always possessed, they could maintain their lines of investment, extending over such a vast area, and accomplish at the same time any important field operation. Unless their deficiency in this respect is remedied to a much larger extent than the amount of reinforcements on their way will accomplish, they will not only fail to achieve the great object of the expedition but will probably themselves be driven into the sea. From a sort of semi-official announcement in the French papers it would seem that Louis Napoleon has renounced his projected visit to the Crimea. It is fairly to be presumed from this that he has no great faith in the success of his arms there.

The attempt on the Emperor's life by a fanatic soldier of Garibaldi's Roman troop, is one of those incidents which, however minor they may shock, can never surprise us in the career of such a man. In his efforts to raise himself to the Imperial throne, he has trampled upon too many interests and prejudices, and fettered too much the free expression of political opinions, not to render himself a frequent mark for party and individual vengeance. Whatever abstract notions may be entertained as to the unscrupulousness of his course, his bitter opponents cannot but admire the admirable coolness and self-possession which he displayed under the circumstances, and the consummate tact with which he turned this dastardly attempt to account in his reply to the address of the Senate.

**THE MORMONS AND THE INDIANS—WHAT NEXT?**

The intelligence which we published yesterday from the Great Salt Lake concerning the escape from prison of the Indians given up by their tribe as the murderers of Capt. Gannison and his party, conveys the unwelcome idea of a sort of conspiracy between the Mormons and the Indian tribes against the general government, and the people of the United States generally classed among the Gentiles. We think it high time that some decisive action were taken in regard to this anomalous and disgusting establishment of Mormonism. The expedition sent out by the administration under Col. Stephen, with so much bravado, appears to have ended in his resignation of the office of Governor, or, to which he was appointed. Brigham Young, perhaps, has frightened him out of it; but can such a character as this blasphemous impostor be tolerated any longer as an officer of the government of the United States? We should like to know. It is time, even for this administration, to be doing something or the extermination of this scandalous mummery of profanity, religion and polygamy of the Great Salt Lake. If the Territorial officers sent out from Washington cannot undertake the discharge of their duties for fear of the fate of Gannison, they should be supported by a competent detachment of the army quartered upon the remote Salt Lake. Meantime, we respectfully call upon Gen. Cass to say whether "separators" are rightly "according to the theory as laid down in the Nicholson letter," does or does not include the sovereignty of the squatters over the institution of polygamy.

The United States Senate—Vacancies—Fruitures to Elect—The Union Question.

The terms of the following named members of the United States Senate expired on the fourth of March last, and their seats remain yet vacant:—  
 NEW HAMPSHIRE—Messrs. Norris, deceased. Vacancy of Mr. Norris, deceased, also to be filled, whose term expires in 1856.  
 PENNSYLVANIA—James Cooper, (whig.)  
 ALABAMA—Benjamin Fitzpatrick, (dem.)  
 INDIANA—John Pettit, (dem.)  
 MISSOURI—David R. Atchison, (dem.)  
 CALIFORNIA—Wm. M. Gwin, (dem.)

In New Hampshire, at the last meeting of the Legislature, the administration democracy made an effort to fill one of their Senatorial vacancies, but it failed, the various elements of the opposition being too strong for them. The late Know Nothing victory having carried both houses by a large majority, will be followed up, of course, by the return of two anti-Pierce Senators from Concord.

In Pennsylvania the Know Nothings had the power in the late Legislature, but unfortunately they nominated that slippery old politician by trade, Simon Cameron. The result was a mutiny in the camp; and after repeated ballottings, the programme of electing Mr. Cameron was abandoned. The Legislature, therefore, to be elected by the people in October, will have to fill this vacancy, and the probability is that all the old fogies will be dropped in favor of some new man who can be elected.

The vacancy in Alabama will, no doubt, be duly filled at the next meeting of the Legislature, as also that in Indiana. Mr. Fitzpatrick, the late Alabama Senator, may possibly be returned; but there is little hope of John Pettit, the Indiana man. His Legislature is too strongly anti-Nebraska and anti-administration for that. Possibly his place may be as well filled by a new man, more, perhaps, a Know Nothing, but not so much an infidel. Since the departure of Robert Dale Owen as Mr. Pierce's Minister to Naples, the infidel element in the Indiana democracy appears to have been snuk with the administration.

In Missouri, between the whigs, the Benton democrats, or hards, and the Atchison democrats, or softs (the terms bearing precisely the opposite meaning to their application in New York), the game in the Legislature was blocked. After balloting from time to time to the extent of forty or fifty trials, they gave it up in despair, and the job goes over to the next Legislature. When Benton's last term was expiring, the Atchison democrats joined the whigs, and elected a whig to supersede him; the Benton men will most likely return the compliment next winter, should Atchison persist in running. It is said, however, from the active interest he has been taking in the affairs of Kansas, that Atchison may possibly move over into that Territory, and lay his pipes for a Senatorial election there, upon the admission of Kansas into the Union. In any event, this war between Benton and Atchison affords a striking illustration of the tenacity with which these old professional politicians cling to the public plunder. For eight or ten years the jealousies between these two men have kept the Missouri democracy in a regular stew; and as there can be no peace till both of them are shelved, we presume the Know Nothings will act accordingly.

In California there has been a "scrimmage" among the democrats concerning Dr. Gwin similar somewhat to the Missouri feud. The office of United States Senator from California counting in the millage—ten thousand miles a year, eight dollars for every twenty miles—is worth something. Many hungry politicians out there, too lazy to work in the mines, fight for the Senatorship correspondingly strong. Great efforts are being made to get up a division of El Dorado into two or three States, so as to have more Senators and members of the House, more mileage and more public plunder. Meantime, after some fifty odd ballots, without an election, to fill the vacancy of Dr. Gwin, he claims to have been elected upon the first ballot, on the ground that the State constitution declares a plurality shall elect. We apprehend, however, that if the Doctor comes to Washington on that plea, he will be sent back without his mileage, on the ground that the Legislature of California has declared that there has been no election.

The chances are that new men will fill all these vacancies, excepting, perhaps, that of Alabama. The aggregate result will doubtless be, from the pressure of the anti-Nebraska agitation in the North, a considerable accession of agitators to the free soil faction in the Senate, as well as in the other branch of Congress. Such are the bitter fruits of the miserable spoils policy and treachery, duplicity and imbecility of this wretched administration, scattering the great democratic party into fragments, throwing the politics of the whole country into chaos, and giving such an impetus to the Northern anti-slavery movement that nothing but a genuine American Union party can arrest it. In the North, in the South, in Kansas and in Congress, have thus been sown the seeds of confusion and trouble. But the people, in the quaint disguise of Know Nothingism, have been entering into the work of a thorough-going revolution; and before they are done with it, confused and conflicting as things may now appear, we believe that it will assume the shape and substance of consistency, nationality, harmony, security and peace.

Let the Philadelphia National Council, consulting the dangers which confront us, enlarge themselves upon a broad and open Union platform, and the field is their own.

**HIGH PRICES OF PROVISIONS—EFFECTS OF COMBINATION.**—The prices of provisions in our markets continue to form a daily subject of complaint with all classes of the community. A few weeks since we were consoled with the assurance that as soon as the warm weather set in there would be a material diminution in the cost of provisions; but so far is this from being the fact, that everything is still at famine prices. Why this should be the case, when we take into account the cheap price of cattle in distant parts of our own as well as in other States, as well as the facilities of conveyance which we now enjoy from almost every part of the country, it puzzles most people to explain. The more those facilities seem to multiply, and the more the conditions of supply are increased beyond the demand, the higher we are compelled to pay for the necessities of life. We have, on the one hand, the Harlem and Hudson railroads branching into the great Central road, which connects in its turn with the lakes. The Erie Railroad brings us, in addition, produce from the southern part of the State. On the other we have the Charleston and Savannah steamers, which transport to us the prodigious

quantities of the South. Our communications with the interior were never, in fact, so perfect as they are now, and yet, in spite of all these advantages and facilities, we find provisions in our markets at a price which would argue the existence of a state of siege and the stoppage of all our lines of land and water conveyance. For beef we are paying two shillings a pound, and for mutton nearly as much. Other articles of consumption are proportionately extravagant. Were there any prospect of this state of things being ameliorated, we might make up our minds to suffer patiently a little while longer. But when we see the summer advancing without any apparent chance of abatement, it is time for us to inquire into the causes of this singular state of things, with a view to a remedy.

We are told that it is the rapid increase of population in New York and its vicinity to which it is alone to be attributed. There is only a grain of truth in this assertion. Population, no doubt, controls to some extent the prices of the necessities of life, but in no city in the world do we find any parallel to the rates demanded for food in our markets. Considering the vast agricultural resources that we possess, and which are equal to the supply of any demands that the most rapid increase of our population for the next century can make upon them, we pay dearer for our provisions at present, than the most expensive and densely populated capitals of Europe. We must, therefore, seek for explanation of the fact in some other cause. From inquiries which we have instituted into the subject, we are satisfied that the extravagant prices now maintained in our markets, at least so far as meat is concerned, are entirely to be attributed to the system of combination which exists amongst monopolists, and which enables them to regulate the supply as it may suit their purposes. Any of the country farmers, for instance, attempting to break through the arbitrary regulations of the drovers or cattle dealers, find themselves exposed to so many annoyances, difficulties and losses that they are not a second time inclined to violate them.

In this state of things, we see no remedy that will meet the evil, unless by opposing the monopolists with their own weapons. As regretful and forestalling are no longer statutable offences, we cannot inflict any legal penalty upon them, but we can beat them by very simple and practicable arrangements, which only require to be energetically carried out to be successful. Let the butchers of New York, who are as much interested as the public in keeping down the prices of meat, organize themselves into a society to pay the expenses of agents in the agricultural districts, who would be commissioned to compete with the cattle dealers on their own ground and to purchase such supplies as might be required by the trade. Were the hotels and other large establishments of our city to adopt the same plan for a few months, we will answer for it that the present anomalous state of our markets would soon undergo a revolution more consonant with the means of supply at their disposal and the first cost of the articles in the localities in which they are produced.

**A RATTLING AMONG THE DRY BONES.**—Old Virginia is undergoing a thorough shaking up by the Know Nothings, the like of which she has never experienced since the Revolution of '76. The result will be good; it will wake her up from her long sleep in the arms of the spoils democracy, and put her on the high road to active enterprise and prosperity. Thursday next is the day.

**ACADEMY OF MUSIC—LAST NIGHT OF THE SEASON.**—The present season at the Academy of Music was brought to a close last evening, and the company will go to Boston to-day, and sing at the Boston theatre on Monday. The present season commenced on Friday, March 16. The prospects of the committee were very brilliant. They opened the house on the heels of a complete fiasco, and their success is owing entirely to good management and capital. The season has continued during nine weeks—a sufficient guarantee for its success. Four nights were lost through various causes, but there have been made up by extra performances. "Lucia di Lammermoor" has been given three times, "Maria di Rohan" twice, "Rigoletto" twice, and the "Favorita" once. On the 10th of April Rosini's "William Tell" was produced, and it has been played twelve times to full houses. On the 22d of May Verdi's "Il Trovatore" was brought out in advance of its production in London, and it had brilliant success. It has been played eight times. "Barber of Seville" was given once on the occasion of the debut of Mme. de la Grange. All of these operas have been continued and mounted in the best manner, a fact which has contributed, in no small degree, to their success. It is certain that during this season many thousands of people have visited the Opera who were prevented, by indifference or prejudice, from doing so on any previous occasion. The upper portion of the house has been thrown open to the public at a low rate of admission, and it has been nightly filled with earnest, attentive and delighted auditors. All this shows that the Opera is growing popular with all classes of the people; and when properly managed there can be no doubt of its refining influences.

The Academy last night was full, and the performance was excellent in every respect. A great treat it is store for the Bostonians.

**THE LA GRANGE TROUPE AT THE ACADEMY.**—It will be seen by advertisement that Mr. Jacobson has made an arrangement by which a new season at the Academy of Music will be commenced under his direction next Monday night. The opening opera will be the "Lucia" of Donizetti, with Mme. de la Grange, Signor Mirate, the tenor, who has never been heard here, and Signor Merelli. The orchestra will be conducted by Signor Arditi.

**Marine Affairs.**  
 The schooner *Pelee*, for Aspinwall, left yesterday the wharf at the foot of Cherry street, with the iron boat built by Pease & Murphy (Fulton Iron Works), for the Panama Railroad Company. The boat is taken out in sections, and will be put together at Aspinwall. It is 75 feet long, 20 feet beam.

**Naval Intelligence.**  
 The storeship *Relief*, bound to Rio Janeiro, dropped down from the Navy Yard yesterday, and anchored off the Battery. The following is a list of her officers:—  
 Lieut. Commanding, Stephen C. Rowan; Master and Executive Officer, Jas. S. Thornton; Purser, Wm. J. Kelly; Paid Assistant Surgeon, Ed. Hudson; Passed Midshipman, C. C. Crutcher; Dr. H. Barnard; James H. Bruce.

Surveying schooner *Humboldt*, Capt. Gordon, from Baltimore, bound on a survey of the California coast, was at the Navy Yard March 31, replying. She arrived on the 24th, having lost one of her masts three days out from Baltimore. She will resume her voyage in about six days. She lost sixteen days in endeavoring to return to Baltimore.

**From the Red River Country.**  
 LOW STAGE OF THE WATER—DISTRIBUTION APPROPRIATE—FLOW NINE DOLLARS PER BARREL. [From the Cincinnati Commercial, May 17.]  
 The stage of the water at the mouth of the Red River (above Paris, La., April 23, 1855), contains the following particulars:—  
 Such a state of things never existed here before. As yet the Red river has not been navigable, and not a bale of cotton has been shipped. Thousands and tens of thousands of bales are on the banks of the Upper Red river, and the water is so low that the boats are unable to get their cotton out, but as a necessary consequence, no supplies have reached us of any kind. We have no railroad communication, and the prospect is gloomy. Flour is selling at \$10 per barrel, and not to be had within thirty miles. Corn is commanding \$2 per bushel, and other things in proportion.

## THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

From Washington.

**THE REGISTRATION SYSTEM APPLIED TO FOREIGN MAILS.**  
 Washington, May 18, 1855.  
 Supplementary instructions to those recently published by the Post Office Department, in regard to the registration of valuable letters, have been issued, and are to the following effect:—  
 Letters for Germany by the Bremen line, via New York, and by the Prussian closed mails via New York and Boston, will be registered in the same manner and on the same terms as those deliverable in the United States; but the postage on such letters must be pre-paid to their place of destination.

Pre-paid letters from Bremen, and those received by the Prussian closed mails, (if accompanied with letters bills similar to those prescribed for the use of this department) will be duly registered at the American office of distribution or delivery at which they are first received, and will thereafter be treated in all respects in the same manner as letters originally mailed in the United States.

**The Kansas Difficulties.**  
 ASTOUNDING DEVELOPMENTS BY GEO. S. PARK—TERRIBLE CONSPIRACY ON FOOT.

Chicago, May 18, 1855.  
 Geo. S. Park, late of the Parkville Luminary, publishes a long letter in the *St. Louis Democrat*, in which he says that Stringfellow and Atchison have organized a secret association which are sworn to turn out and fight with the following rules:—All belonging to it are to remain in the damages accruing to any member who proscribes, even at the price of disunion; all are to act secretly, to destroy the business and character of Northern men; and all dissenting from their policies are to be expelled from the Territory. Western Missouri is to be held in constant terror. All the whig and Benton presses are to be destroyed. The destruction of the hotel in Kansas City, with the presses at Lawrence, are decreed, and cannot be taken to their destruction. The onslaught is not to stop until every free soiler is driven out of Missouri and Kansas. Park says he has been told by Governor Price and President Pierce for protection, but no answers were returned. By the threats previously made, traces the destruction of the Luminary establishment to Atchison. Mr. Park promises further developments at an early day.

**The Case of Col. Kinney in Philadelphia.**  
 Philadelphia, May 18, 1855.  
 The hearing under the writ of habeas corpus in the case of Col. Kinney, has been postponed at the request of defendant's counsel, till Monday next, in order to give time for obtaining documents from Washington. Monday is the first day of the term.

**A Democratic and Whig Anti-Know Nothing Fusion Meeting.**  
 Buffalo, May 18, 1855.

A democratic and whig anti-Know Nothing fusion meeting was held here last night. Among those present were Mayor Cook, E. G. Spaulding, State Treasurer; W. Weed, Assemblyman, and John L. Talbot.

**The Veto of the Western Railroad Loan Bill.**  
 Boston, May 18, 1855.  
 Governor Gardner's veto of the bill providing for the loan to the Western Railroad, has been sustained in the Senate, by a vote of 169 to 87.

**The Norwalk Catastrophe.**  
 Norwalk, May 18, 1855.  
 Yesterday, before the Supreme Court, in session at Ipswich, was commenced the case of Dr. Charles H. Brown against the Norwalk and Western Railroad, in which the plaintiff claims \$30,000 damages for injuries sustained in the Norwalk catastrophe. Able counsel has been retained on both sides.

**Sixty-first Session of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church.**  
 St. Louis, May 18, 1855.  
 The sixty-first session of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, commenced at the Union Church in this city yesterday morning, under the presidency of the Rev. A. K. Skinner, of New York, delivered the opening sermon. New York was selected as the next place for meeting.

**The Episcopal Convention.**  
 Philadelphia, May 18, 1855.  
 The Episcopal convention has adjourned for the day. There was no action taken upon the proposed division of the diocese in this State. The committee appointed on this subject was to continue, and make a report at the next convention.

**Italian Opera in Boston.**  
 Boston, May 18, 1855.  
 The sales of seats to witness "William Tell," on Monday night, commenced at 9 o'clock this morning, and by 1 o'clock every good seat in the house was taken.

**The Case of Alfred Fyler.**  
 St. Louis, May 18, 1855.  
 Judge Woolworth to-day made out an order sending Alfred Fyler, convicted of the murder of his wife, to the lunatic asylum at Utica.

**Constructive Fire in Petersburg, Va.**  
 Petersburg, Va., May 18, 1855.  
 Twelve stores in Petersburg, Va., were destroyed by fire, with nearly all their contents, yesterday. The loss is estimated at \$150,000. The property burnt was the most valuable in the city, being in the heart of the business portion of it.

**Large Fire in Dundas, C. W.**  
 Buffalo, May 18, 1855.  
 At Dundas, C. W., on Wednesday, a fire destroyed Anderson and McKellicock's paper mill, and Gore's flouring mill. A large quantity of grain and other property, dried corn of wood, was consumed. The loss is put down at \$10,000, of which one-third is insured.

**Arrival of the Knoxville at Savannah.**  
 Savannah, May 18, 1855.  
 The steamer Knoxville has arrived here, after a passage of fifty-three hours from New York, with all on board well.

**Markets.**  
 Charleston, May 18, 1855.  
 The prices of cotton are advancing. The sales to-day sum up 5,000 bales, at 86c. to 100c.  
 Savannah, May 18, 1855.  
 The sales of cotton in our market to-day add up 1,300 bales, at 9½c. to 10½c. We quote strict middling at 9½c. to 10c.

**Obituary.**  
 The Hon. JOHN C. SPENCER died in Albany, on the evening of the 15th inst., from the effects of consumption. Although the fatal disease had been expected for some days past, still the announcement of the decease of one of the most distinguished public men in our State has given rise to a very general expression of regret on the part of the people.

Mr. Spencer was a son of the late Chief Justice Spencer, and was born in Canadaigua, Ontario county, in the State of New York, about the year 1785. He studied law at an early age, and became one of the most distinguished men in his profession, having had few equals at the bar.

Possessing the most refined talents, a disposition for active labor, and a powerful constitution, Mr. Spencer rose rapidly in his profession, and during his long career filled many public offices, with equal credit to himself and benefit to his country.

In the year 1820, Mr. Spencer was Speaker of the Assembly of this State, and was a member of the State Senate with Silas Wright. He also filled the office of Secretary of State and Superintendent of Common Schools during one term. Governor John W. Van Buren, in the year 1827, associated Mr. Spencer with Benjamin F. Butler and John Duer as a board to revise the statutes of this State, and in that highly important work he bore a full and successful part.

Mr. Spencer held a seat in Congress from the year 1817 to the year 1819. Under Mr. Tyler's administration he became Secretary of War, which office he held until the year 1845. He was immediately afterwards appointed Secretary of the Treasury, which post he resigned in 1844.

At the close of the Tyler administration Mr. Spencer returned to Albany, where he was appointed one of the commissioners instructed to collect the State laws under the Constitution of 1846.

He was a member of the Episcopal church, and represented Saint Peter's church, Albany, as a lay delegate at the Episcopal convention of the diocese. He was also a distinguished delegate to the General Convention of that church.

## MAYOR'S OFFICE.

COMPLAINT AGAINST PECK SLIP FERRY—MAYOR WOOD AND THE LADIES.

The Mayor received some interesting letters yesterday morning, one from Geo. W. Benson, a resident of Williamsburg, preferring, in strong terms, a complaint against the Peck slip ferry corporation and its subordinate officers, and the other from the ladies of Brooklyn, appealing to the Mayor, as the only "independent power" with which the city of New York is blessed, for protection against the unfortunate bad women who throng Broome street from Wooster to Laurens, and use the most vulgar and profane language, which they allege is very unpleasant to themselves and unfit for their children to hear. They say further that they are now making a petition to the Mayor, and are asking that he should cause the same to be presented to him, and finally conclude by saying that his Honor would secure the best of the cause, and be sincere in giving his attention to the matter.

In the letter against the Peck slip company, the writer states that in accordance with the rules prescribing the rates by which persons may commute on said ferry, "All under 13 years of age," he bought a ticket for his son, who is but 10 years of age, which was readily and forcibly snatched from him (the son's) hands by Wm. H. Teare, the ferry master, who demanded likewise the regular fare, saying, "Give me my toll, ergo out!" The son, being so young, was unable to resist, and was carried out of the toll house, (seized hold of him and attempted by force to shove him out, falling in which he called for a policeman, who prevailed upon the son to pay the toll, who was then carried to the side of the ferry, and the son's window from the fear of being seized or insulted by them, and finally concluding by saying that his Honor would secure the best of the cause, and be sincere in giving his attention to the matter.

**City Intelligence.**  
 TEMPERANCE MEETING.—The Caron League held a meeting last evening at No. 42 Baxter street, in a room which is occupied by the Sabbath School of that locality. From sixty to seventy persons were present, a large proportion of whom were women. The limited audience was doubtless attributable to the uninviting character of the neighborhood, which in the evening is very little of the meeting, and that little was obtained from the transparency displayed in front of the building. However, the meeting in other particulars was effective, one speaking was given, and the subject was well impressed with a due sense of the evils of intemperance.

Mr. Nathan T. Hewitt presided, and the proceedings were commenced with prayer by Rev. Mr. Allen. Mr. Benson, who had subsequently visited the agent of the company, and informed him of the outrage; not hoping that he would be able to do so, and the matter to the consideration of the Mayor, hoping that he will investigate it thoroughly, and punish the guilty parties as the law directs.

**The Late Fire in Broadway.**—The fire which occurred in the premises of Hensley & Cropper, lace importers, at No. 68 Broadway, at about 1 o'clock on Friday morning, did not, it seems, do as much damage as was anticipated. The firm was insured to the amount of \$20,000, in the following companies:—Royal, \$10,000; Astor, \$5,000; and Washington, \$5,000. The dry goods firm of Swan & Wetmore, on the first floor, were damaged to the amount of \$10,000. The loss of the firm of \$90,000, in the following insurance companies:—Continental, \$10,000; Atlas, \$10,000; Atlantic, of Brooklyn, \$10,000; Niagara, of New York, \$10,000; Commercial Fire and Marine, \$10,000; North American